

April 27, 1945.

The President of the United States,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Appreciating the fact that my writing to you might appear presumptuous, I have hesitated a long time before addressing myself to your attention. I am extremely reluctant to distract your attention from the momentous problems which absorb your every moment, but I feel I must do this in order to be honest to myself.

As I am President of the State Branch of the American Federation of Labor, you will understand, I know, that I am deeply concerned with the complex problem of Labor Relations. It is a problem which will of necessity absorb a great deal of consideration in the period immediately following the cessation of hostilities. The manner in which the complexities of this problem are treated will in large measure, I believe, determine the measure of success we shall enjoy in our efforts to promote a stable economic future for our Country.

My little State of Rhode Island has produced a man who is eminently qualified to assume the responsibility of helping in the promotion of such a future. He is a young man well able to stand the rigors of a responsible position. He knows what it is to work hard for a living, having been a bricklayer for several years. He is deeply conscious of the responsibilities of public office, having served honorably in the Congress of the United States.

This young man's mother died while he was attending high school, and it was necessary for him to help shoulder the responsibilities of a growing family of four boys and one girl. Each member of the family was allotted a portion of the daily chores, and, since the family lived on a farm, those chores were considerable. This beginning taught the young man of whom I write that many hands make light work. It instilled in him a great love for his father and family and was the inspiration for the deep-seated respect for authority which is evident in his character. Immediately after completing his high school studies, in 1930, he took up the tools for a bricklayer

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with his father. He continued his studies by attending evening classes at Providence College.

The members of the Bricklayers Union of Providence, R. I., elected him their President in 1937, and upon his election to Congress these same members elected him President Emeritus, an honor never before paid to any member or officer of any union, in Rhode Island.

In 1940 the Democratic Party in Rhode Island, in convention assembled, named him to be its standard bearer in the Second Congressional District, and the people of that District elected him to be their Representative in the Congress of the United States. His plurality in 1940 was approximately 12,000 votes. In 1942, Congressman John E. Fogarty was re-elected with a plurality of 18,000 votes. In 1944, again a candidate for re-election, Congressman Fogarty's plurality was almost 24,000. I mention this merely as evidence that this young man has won the confidence and respect of the people he represents. This he has done through his honest and able conduct in office.

Since his election to Congress in 1940, Congressman Fogarty has grown in stature. He has studied the problems of Labor as they are related to the maintenance of a prosperous economy. He has been an advocate of cooperation between all segments of our economic life and has constantly insisted that members of organized Labor must realize that the public is intimately concerned with the intelligent settlement of industrial controversies. He is an outspoken opponent of "Label-thinking" and advocates a quick departure from the practice of speaking in terms of Labor vs. Management, Capital vs. Labor, etc.

Congressman Fogarty is a prolific reader and a keen student of human nature. He is not given to making speeches whenever an opportunity presents itself, but believes it is possible to accomplish a great deal by discussing common problems in an attitude of friendliness, and in a spirit of cooperation, seeking to iron out existing difficulties. We who are his friends and associates in Rhode Island have seen him develop. We are proud of him, and we are confident of his future greatness.

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Congressman Fogarty is intimately acquainted with all leaders of Organized Labor in Rhode Island. Most of the rank and file are his personal friends, and it is safe to say that he speaks for every member of Organized Labor in our State, American Federation of Labor, Congress of Industrial Organizations, the Railroad Brotherhoods, and Independent Unions alike. He is active, to an exceptional degree, in Church affairs and the activities of Charitable organizations. He is a member of the Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus, the Elks and the Eagles.

Because of all these things, which I have set forth in my own humble fashion, I am moved to suggest Congressman John E. Fogarty to you in the event that you contemplate the appointment of a new member of your cabinet. It is my sincere conviction that Congressman Fogarty would win and hold the cooperation of Labor, Industry, and the Public, as a young, honest, forthright Secretary of Labor. In doing so he would contribute greatly to a prosperous economy and would bring favor to your Administration.

Please accept my sincere expressions of regret for having infringed on your crowded schedule, and my deep feeling of gratitude for the time you have given me in reading this letter. If you are able to give consideration to my recommendation, I shall tell Congressman Fogarty what I have done - otherwise he will know nothing about it.

Pledging to you all the support of which I am capable and praying God will give you the health and strength you will need to carry on for many, many years as our President, I am, Sir,

Respectfully yours,

Arthur W. Devine, President.